

## House Republican Press Release

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### **“Pocket Bike” Bill Passes House of Representatives**



#### *Klarides Supports Ban on Dangerous Under-sized Motor Bikes*

HARTFORD- State Representative Themis Klarides (R-Derby) today voted for legislation to create a ban on so-called “pocket bikes,” noting the evidence that shows such bikes are unsafe in common traffic, and are difficult to see from the perspective of motorists in cars and trucks.

The bill defines a mini-motorcycle and prohibits their use on any highway, public sidewalk, or state property. It also prohibits the use of mini-motorcycles on private property without the written permission of the owner of the property. Failure of the rider to carry written permission is an infraction for both the person riding, and the owner of the bike.

If an infraction is alleged, the enforcement officer may take possession of the mini until the case has final disposition. If it takes over 180 days for the case to be disposed, the agency may sell the mini. The bill requires a warning label and written statement detailing the law and safe use of minis, for persons selling five or more minis in a calendar year, with each mini they sell.

“The size of these bikes is far too low and out of the range of vision for other motorists on the road to properly see,” said Representative Klarides. “There is a real and serious danger to both riders of these small bikes, and to other motorists in traffic when people decide to take these vehicles out on the road. Our streets are no place for these kinds of vehicles.”

The bill now heads to the state Senate for action there. The regular session of the General Assembly will conclude on midnight, June 8th, 2005.